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Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Sandifer's Rise To Bar In New York An Alger Story

SEP 5 1942

Special to Journal and Guide

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Something of an Horatio Alger story was reflected in the remarkable success of young Jawn A. Sandifer, formerly of Greensboro, N. C., who was admitted to the New York Bar Association last week.

The youth, who is 27 years of age, came to this city two years ago, after having finished J. C. Smith College, Charlotte, N. C., in 1935, and Howard University Law School, 1938.

CIGARETTE REPRESENTATIVE

For the past one and a half years he has been a sales representative for the Phillip Morris cigarette company. His acquiring a position held by no other Negro within cigarette firms is a story of ambition, initiative and perserverence.

SOLD IDEA

He struck upon an idea, bombarded cigarette companies with the idea until he was granted an interview with a Phillip Morris official.

The idea proved sound; Sandifer went through something of a probationary period, during which time he established himself as an indispensible element of the company, and finally won a berth as a regularly employed member of the staff.

STUDIED LAW

During his months with Phillip Morris, the young barrister continued his legal pursuits, studying under Harold Medina of Columbia University and A. L. Sainer, of the College of the City of New York. On August 14, he was admitted to the bar.

Sandifer is reluctant, however, to leave his position with Phillip Morris.

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"This opportunity I've had with Phillip Morris," Sandifer explains, "is something of an opening for colored men in this field, and I shouldn't want it to close. I've always felt that there were even greater openings here for me and for others. It's something I've worked for and seen grow and I'm a little sad to think that I'm leaving at a time when real opportunities are litterally just around the corner."

There is no question as to how his present employers feel about him. They have given him time to decide just what he is going to do and he has been assured that the job is his until he makes a definite break and concentrates all his energies on law.

Sandifer intends practicing with Allen Dingle, of 200 West 135th Street.

Savannah, Ga., News
November 19, 1942

Local Colored Lawyer Admitted In U. S. Court

William S. Jackson, local colored attorney, is in Washington, D. C., today where he will be admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

A graduate of Howard University, the attorney has been practicing law for nine years and was admitted to the United States District Court, at New Orleans. Jackson is a native of Savannah and practices in the courts of Chatham county.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ED MORRIS—LAWYER

Shingle Went Up In '79 To Begin 63 Yrs. Service

Nov. 28 1942

By DETON J. BROOKS, JR.

The somber courtroom was crowded. Spectators were tense as they watched the progress of the large-scale legal battle.

Seated at a long table facing the judge was the plaintiff, a shapeless hulk of humanity.

crooked and curved, giving the impression that he was perpetually bending forward because of some misery in his stomach. His shoulders were out of line, like those of a hunchback. His face was scarred and disfigured.

This miserable deformed human had once been straight and erect, athletically and powerfully built. He worked for the railroad and met with an accident. And now he couldn't work. He was a hopeless cripple.

The railroad was contending that the accident was his own fault. The courtroom spectators were sympathetic, for this unfortunate mortal was a pathetic spectacle. But sympathy couldn't help him now. His case was a legal matter and the railroad had a battery of high priced lawyers to prove its point.

A Good Selection

The forlorn complainant couldn't hire an army of lawyers but his lone representative was well chosen. For facing this impressive array of lagal minds was a Negro, Edward H. Morris. To an average layman this name might have no significance. To the opposing battery of lawyers it represented a formidable adversary—one who was a legal giant.

As the case closed, it became apparent that Morris had won another victory. The cripple couldn't work but he received a substantial settlement. At lease he had financial independence for as long as he lived.

When did this happen? It could have taken place any time in the last 63 years. For Edward H. Morris has been fighting powerful corporations and winning spectacular cases over this long span of time.

In 1879 when this unusual man first hung out his shingle, announcing that he was prepared to practice law, Chicago was still a young city. The Civil War had been over only 14 years. Thirty-ninth street on the south was considered the outskirts of town. Street cars were horse drawn. The colored population was small, less than 7,000 or 8,000. Most Negroes lived near the center of the city, around what was then called Third or Fourth avenues. (Third avenue is now Jackson boulevard, and Fourth avenue is Van Buren street.)

Ed Morris had been brought to Chicago shortly after the Civil War by his mother, Elizabeth Morris. Like so many of the stalwart Negro women of her day she had a vision of her son doing something big. She wanted him to have an education.

When he finished college, Edward A. Fisher, prominent white member of the Chicago bar, permitted him to study law in his office. And at 21 he was admitted to practice as one of the youngest members of his class.

Interested in Politics

Like most young lawyers, politics interested him for a while. He was twice chosen as a member of the Illinois Constitutional Convention and served two terms in the State legislature at a time when Negroes were not as important a factor in state politics as they are today.

While in the legislature he had an unusual record of service. He took a broad view of his responsibilities, believing that he must not only serve the interests of the Negro people but of those of the whole community.

After leaving the legislature Morris served for a while as attorney for Cook county. While in this post he upheld the right of Cook county to tax insurance companies. This decision has made it possible for the county to collect large revenues from these corporations which had formerly escaped taxation.

Active In Lodge

As he became older the demands of his private practice forced him to give up politics. He continued active as a member of his fraternal organization, the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, however. Since 1910 he has been re-elected every year as its national head.

It was in conjunction with the activities of this organization that he took a most interesting trip in the summer of 1938. As Grand Master he was invited to Sidney, Australia to attend an international convention. He was the only Negro in a country which had definite laws excluding non-whites. He was a curio to the Australians, but they treated him grandly.

By 1908 Ed Morris had become nationally recognized as an outstanding lawyer. In an edition of Story Lovers magazine of that year he is described as the ablest lawyer of the day.

Even though he was busy with many interests, he took time to give a helping hand to young and struggling members of his profession. Perusal of the list of barristers who got their start in his office includes some of the most successful Negro lawyers of the present day. There is Ed Wilson, assistant states attorney of Cook county for over 20 years; William Houston, former U. S. Assistant Attorney General; William E. Taylor, former Dean of Howard University Law school and now Dean of the law school at Lincoln university, Mo.; Earl B. Dickerson, alderman, city of Chicago; and James B. Cashin, Civil Service commissioner of the city of Chicago.

At the age of 83 Morris has more time for moments of quiet reflection. As he sits on the veranda of his country estate near Benton Harbor, overlooking the clear blue waters of Lake Michigan, or in his massive library surrounded by the books he loves, his mind can flash back

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Resolution Praises, Hits Justice Dept.

Refusal Of Civil Liberties In South Is Scored

DEC 12 1942

NEW YORK, N. Y.—At a meeting last week of the executive board of the National Lawyers Guild, of which Robert Walker Kenny of California is president, the filing of a brief as friend of the court was authorized in the government's suit against the Associated Press.

In a resolution adopted by the board the guild declared that "The contention of the Associated Press that the Government anti-trust suit against the press is a violation of freedom of the press is without foundation."

The executive board will appoint a special committee to study and report on the general question of freedom of the press and the dissemination of news in war time.

HASTIE-MARSHALL REPORT

Condemnation of the Department of Justice was formulated in a report to the board by William Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP.

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Sharply criticizing the manner in which special U. S. attorneys appointed by the Department of Justice have presented evidence in lynching cases, the report said:

"In the states with the worst lynching records, criminal prosecutions of the members of the mob never go further than a perfunctory investigation by either a coroner's jury or by a grand jury, ending with the decision that a person lynched 'came to his death at the hands of parties unknown.'"

SEVERAL INVESTIGATIONS

"During the past year the U. S. Department of Justice for the first time has been investigating several of the lynchings.

"The lynching at Sikeston, Missouri, January 25, 1942, was investigated by the United States Department of Justice and presented to the U. S. Grand Jury, which refused to indict either the members of the mob or the state officials involved.

"Due credit should be given to the present Department of Justice for this much. It is quite evident that more vigorous action must be taken by the members of the Department of Justice presenting these cases to the Grand Jury.

"The report of the Grand Jury on the Sikeston lynching includes a statement that begins with a rehearsal of evidence presented to it of the crime alleged to have been committed by the victim of th mob and then proceeds to find the victim guilty of the crime for which he was charged by stating that 'in this instance a brutal criminal was denied due process.'

"This was of course beyond the scope of the Grand Jury investigation and was unnecessary, uncalled for, and, indeed, is contrary to the facts revealed by other investigations."

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The report further cited instances of violence against Negroes in uniform by civilian and state officials.

INSULT TO SOLDIERS

"An attack on a Negro soldier or sailor in uniform is a direct attack on our government. Unless the federal government is willing to protect its soldiers and sailors on leave as well as while on duty, it is impossible to maintain the proper morale among Negro soldiers and sailors and their families, and the authority of government itself is seriously undermined.

"It is impossible to develop combat efficiency in Negro soldiers and sailors while denying them basic civil rights during the period of their training.

"One of the most serious consequences of congestion on segregated public carriers is the almost daily conflict between colored soldiers and white fellow passengers, whether traveling on duty or on furlough the colored soldier experiences the indignity of segregation.

"Moreover, he is often ordered to move from seats customarily set aside for Negro passengers so that white persons may be seated. With increasing frequency he is denied accommodations altogether when there are sufficient white persons waiting to fill the entire vehicle.

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NURSE ASSAULTED

"In October, in Montgomery, Alabama, a Negro Army nurse was beaten and her nose broken by city policemen because she refused to vacate the rear seat of a bus so that white passengers might be seated.

"At about the same time in Norfolk, two Negro sergeants were beaten and jailed for a similar offense.

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"In some large camps a short furlough may be worthless to the Negro soldier because local transportation officials will prevent him from boarding trains or bus so that space may be available for white passengers."

Concerning violence against defense workers, the report stated:

"It is certainly agreed that American citizens have a right to go about their work without molestation by either civilians or state authorities. There are several instances where white workers incited by bigots have refused to work with Negro workers and in some cases have even committed assaults upon Negro workers.

In some plants in the state of Alabama, white and colored workers are going to work armed in anticipation of racial outbreaks.

MUSHROOM ORGANIZATIONS

"Now that the Ku Klux Klan is under indictment by the federal government, smaller organizations, such as Vigilantes, Inc., being sponsored by the Talmadges of Georgia, have come into existence.

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It is the duty of the federal government to ferret out the leaders of these subversive elements aimed to prevent Negroes from working in defense plants."

Atlanta Ga. Journal
December 27, 1942

News of Atlanta's Negro Community

By WILLIAM Y. BELL JR.

Elected to Georgia Bar

The distinction of being the first negro woman in Georgia's first Negro woman in Georgia's practice of law went to Mrs. R. P. Herndon this week when it was learned that she was among those successfully passing the most recent state bar examination.

Of the 63 persons taking the examination, 18 passed and Mrs. Herndon was the only Negro candidate to do so.

She has secured practical experience as the secretary to Attorney A. T. Walden for the last several years and attributes a large part of her recent success to that fact.

Her admission to practice will bring the number of Negro lawyers practicing in the city to four.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Ask Use of Negro Lawyers in War

(Special to The Worker)

CHICAGO, Ill., July 7.—Euclid L. Taylor, president of the National Bar Association, and Alderman Earl B. Dickerson, two outstanding Negro attorneys, together with Martin Popper, executive secretary of the National Lawyers' Guild, have drawn up a plan for the employment without discrimination of Negro lawyers in the war effort.

The plan was evolved at a meeting in Attorney Taylor's office and was revealed a few days ago.

In addition to being a prominent Negro attorney and political figure here, Alderman Dickerson is a member of President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practices Committee. Popper has been associated with a number of causes in behalf of the Negro people. Taylor, Dickerson and Popper are leading win-the-war spokesmen among the nation's Negro and white lawyers.

URGE COMMISSIONS

The program drafted by the attorneys emphasized that every one of the nation's 2,000 Negro lawyers stands ready to give his fullest effort to winning the war. One goal set by the Committee is the granting of commissions to Negroes in the newly created Army Specialist Service Corps, in which men from civilian life are given high commissioned ranks.

Mr. Taylor said that it is planned to point to the inadequate employment of Negroes in war and government agencies. The report will also cover the status of Negro employment in such branches as the judge-advocated general's and provost-marshal's offices in the War Department, the War Production Board, the Office of Price Administration, the Department of Justice and similar departments.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

THE AMERICAN BAR

OCT 3 - 1942

American whites for the most part are still swashbuckling, swaggering and arrogantly lording it over those within their borders of darker skin. Apparently they have not yet reconciled themselves to the conclusion of Lord Halifax of England "that the world will not be the same after the war."

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Halifax further declares that during the last three years, the British by force of circumstances, have learned a new humility. It appears that the British people are beginning to realize that it is not written in the records of destiny for the white man and his heirs to forever inherit the salt of the earth. The British people have been rudely and abruptly jarred into a full realization of the rights of the darker races. The concern over India and the ultimate freedom that is bound to follow proves it.

Our American brother of light hue is adamant and arbitrary. He evidently sees through the glass but darkly and seems reluctant to change our infamous and lamentable status quo.

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The American Bar Association reveals a beautiful cross section of the white American conception of democracy. This powerful and affluent organization includes among its membership, the President, the Supreme Court Justices, most of the members of Congress, many of the attorneys general of the sovereign states and most of the leading legislators and judges of the land. No colored American is permitted to join, regardless of his legal training, his prerequisites or his legal intelligence. He is barred ebcause of his identity with the darker races.

This is the height of judicial snobbery. It is the antithesis of democracy and humility. It blatantly lays bare the bigotry and intolerance of the overlords and law makers of the land. It is a travesty upon Americanism and all of the altruistic utterances of the ruling spirits of this land.

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The American Bar association must let down the bars and "cease and desist" from barring and blackballing every colored man of legal qualifications who seeks to become a member. The American Bar Association will sooner or later be compelled to adopt the attitude of humility acquired by the Britishers, if we are to deal in good faith with the constituents of Pan-America.

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Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Admits First Woman to Bar

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Columbia, S. C. — (ANP) — For the first time in the history of the state, a colored woman appeared before the state supreme court here last Saturday and took oath required of all attorneys before they enter practice of their profession.

The young woman, Cassandra E. Maxwell, from Orangeburg, S. C., had recently passed the examination for admission to the bar, and was so inducted with 10 other persons, one of whom was colored, Walter Frederick Robinson. However, several Negro men have been admitted to the bar in recent years.

Little comment was made because of her presence and the customary procedure was followed without deviation. Clerk J. B. Westbrook, white, administered the oath of office, while Chief Justice M. L. Bonham spoke briefly to the newly-enrolled attorneys.

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Crack Barrister

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Records indicate that when Attorney Harold R. Boulware argued before the Circuit Court of Appeals, fourth district, the case of Alexist Grant and Cyrus Pinckney (Charleston, S. C.) convicted in seven minutes when counsel — to whom $550 had been paid — failed to appear, and no Negroes were on the jury at Moncks Corner, South Carolina, he became the first colored barrister in the state to achieve such distinction. He sought a writ of habeas corpus in U. S. District Court and on error appealed to the circuit court. A graduate of Smith and Howard Universities, he has shattered the traditionally limited practice of colored lawyers in the state, going out for all types of cases.

36- S.C.